



Weather & Climate Summary Bering Land Bridge National Preserve Winter 2016-2017

Nome Winter Weather

From a climate perspective the winter of 2016-2017 was normal. Much different than the previous three winter seasons (2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016) which were all ranked among the top ten warmest winters for Nome with a record dating back to 1907.

The winter of 2016-2017 started out on a warm note with above normal temperatures for December. January had near normal temperatures for the month. Snowfall was close to normal for both December and January. February was much colder and snowier than normal.

The average winter temperature at Nome was 7.0°F which is -0.3°F cooler than the 1981-2010 normal.

The total winter precipitation was 2.81 inches, 95% of normal.

A total of 43.4 inches of snow fell between December 1 and February 28, 110% of normal (Figure 1 and 2; Table 1, 2 and 3).

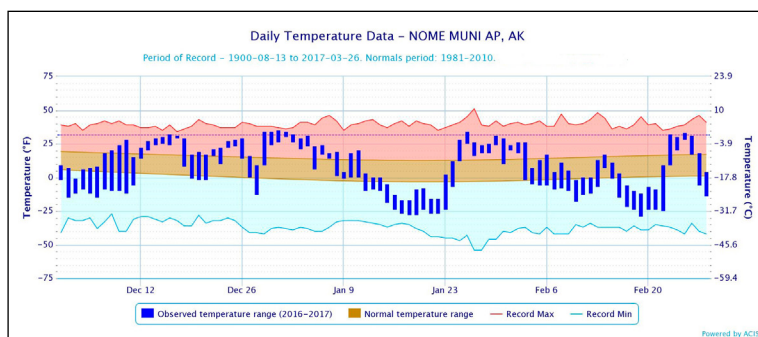


Figure 1. Winter 2016-2017 daily temperatures at Nome showing record maximum (red), record minimum (blue), normal (brown) and observed range (blue bars).

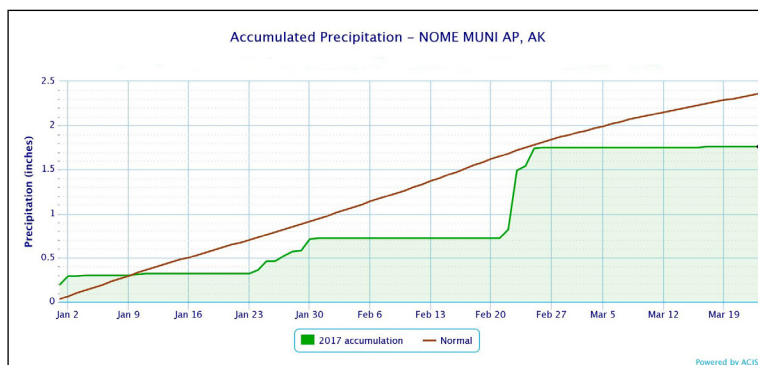


Figure 2. Winter 2016-2017 accumulated precipitation at Nome (green) compared to normal (brown line).

Table 1. Temperature: Winter 2016-2017 average monthly temperatures compared to the 1981-2010 normal.

Winter 2016-2017	Average Monthly Temp °F	1981-2010 Normal °F	Departure from Normal °F	Monthly High °F / Date	Monthly Low °F / Date
December	13.0	9.5	+3.5	35 / Dec 31	-15 / Dec 2, 6
January	5.8	5.2	+0.6	34 / Jan 26	-28 / Jan 18, 19
February	2.3	7.4	-5.1	33 / Feb 25	-29 / Feb 19

Winter Season Temperature Departure from Normal: -0.3°F.

Table 2. Precipitation: Winter 2016-2017 monthly precipitation totals compared to normal.

Winter 2016-2017	Total Monthly Precip. in.	1981-2010 Normal in.	Departure from Normal in.	Greatest 24 -hr. total in. / Date	# Days with >=0.01 in. water
December	1.07	1.08	-0.01	0.41 / Dec 29	15
January	0.71	0.94	-0.23	0.19 / Jan 1	12
February	1.03	0.93	+0.10	0.67 / Feb 23	5

Winter Season Precipitation Departure from Normal: -0.14 inches (95% of normal).

Table 3. Snowfall: Winter 2016-2017 monthly snowfall totals compared to normal.

Winter 2016-2017	Total Monthly Snowfall in.	1981-2010 Normal in.	Departure from Normal in.	Greatest 24 -hr. snowfall total in. / Date	Cumulative snowfall since 1-July in.
December	16.1	14.5	+1.6	4.4 / Dec 29	25.3
January	10.1	12.7	-2.6	1.7 / Jan 30	35.4
February	17.2	12.2	+5.0	10.1 / Feb 23	52.6

Winter Season Snowfall Departure from Normal: +4.0 inches (110% of normal).

Climate Monitoring in Bering Land Bridge

NPS climate stations in Bering Land Bridge complement the long-term record from the National Weather Service station in Nome. NPS stations are located at Serpentine Hot Springs, Midnight Mountain, Devil Mountain, and Ella Creek (Figure 3).

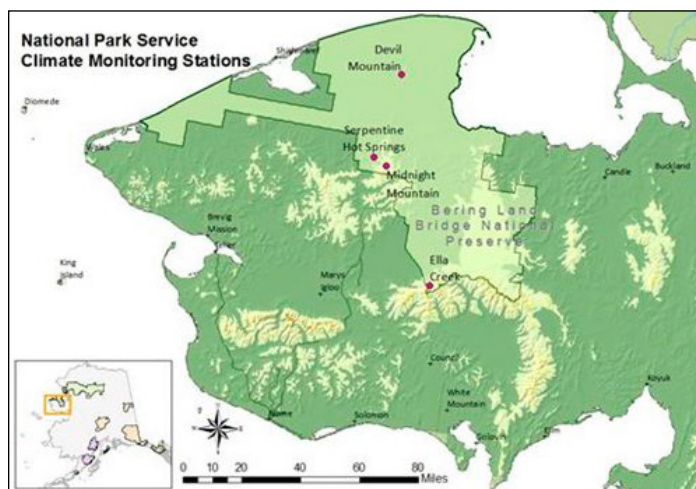


Figure 3. NPS Climate stations in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

Featured Station: Ella Creek

Ella Creek is located in the Bendeleben Mountains at an elevation of 2318 feet. We visit Ella Creek once a year to download the data, calibrate sensors, and do basic maintenance; the station records hourly weather observations for the other 364 days a year. It is a challenging location for equipment with high winds, cold temperatures, curious

wildlife, and riming events. Ella Creek has performed relatively well given the elements. December is one of the toughest months for data collection due to the lack of sunlight and winter conditions. Figure 4 shows the high and low temperatures that were recorded in December 2016.

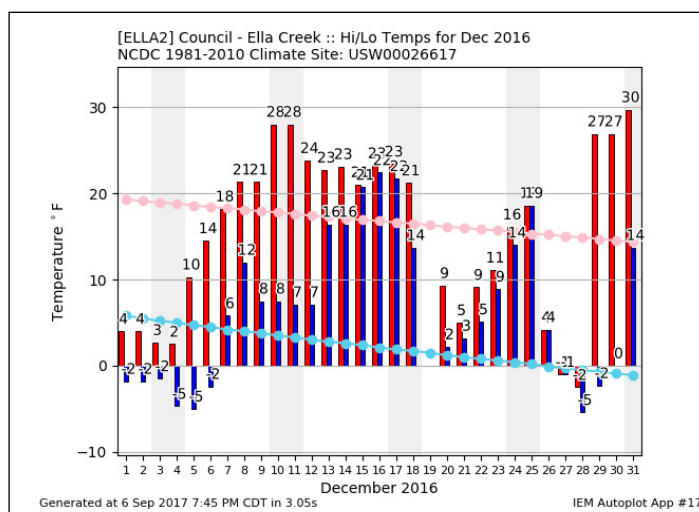


Figure 4. Daily high/low temperatures at Ella Creek December 2016.

More Information

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